

REMARKS

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant believes claims 4-6 and 24 have been allowed but the Office action is ambiguous relative to claims 4-6 and 24. The Summary page and allowable subject matter portion on page 5 of the Office action indicate that claims 4-6 and 24 are allowed. Moreover, claims 4-6 and 24 are not mentioned within the section 102 and section 103 rejection portions of the Office action thereby supporting the belief that claims 4-6 and 24 are allowed. However, the allowable subject matter portion on page 2 of the Office action indicates that the allowability of claim 4 has been withdrawn. Applicant believes that the inclusion of claim 4 is in error and consequently responds as though claims 4-6 and 24 are allowed.

Applicant has amended claim 18 to include the limitations of claim 15 in accordance with the examiner's statement that claim 18 is objected to as being based upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Dependent claims 19-22 and 28 have been amended to recite the correct dependency to claim 18. New claims 29 and 30 are dependent upon claim 18 as well and incorporate the limitations of canceled claims 16 and 17.

Based on the foregoing, applicant believes claims 4-6, 18-22, 24 and 28-30 are allowable.

II. 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 11, 15, 19, 21 and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0105741 to Inglese. For the reasons set forth below, applicant traverses this section 102 rejection.

Applicant has canceled claims 11 and 15 rendering the section 102 moot relative thereto. Applicant has amended claims 19, 21 and 22 to render them dependent upon amended claim 18, which as set forth above, is allowable. Therefore, claims 19, 21 and 22 are allowable as well.

III. 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 16, 17 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inglese in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,927,461 to Jamieson. For the reasons set forth below, applicant

traverses this section 103 rejection.

Applicant has canceled claims 16, 17 and 27 rendering this section 103 moot relative thereto.

Claims 20, 25, 26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Inglese in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/159595 to Connard. For the reasons set forth below, applicant traverses this section 103 rejection.

Applicant has canceled claims 25 and 26 rendering this section 103 moot relative thereto. Applicant has amended claims 20 and 28 to render them dependent upon amended claim 18, which as set forth above, is allowable. Therefore, claims 20 and 28 are allowable as well.

IV. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance and, accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested. Should any questions remain regarding the allowability of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Greenberg Traurig
3773 Howard Hughes Pkwy.
Suite 500 North
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169

Telephone : 702-792-3773
Facsimile : 702 792-9002
E-mail : lvpto@gtlaw.com

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Rob L. Phillips
Registration No. 40,305

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